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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 087467
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APPROVED BY H:NCLEDSKY
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
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STADIS////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UR, OREP (PRICE, MELVIN)

SUBJECT: CODEL PRICE VIEWS ON VISIT TO SOVIET UNION

1. SUMMARY: CODEL PRICE MEMBERS SEEM UNANIMOUS IN THEIR JUDGMENT THAT THE VISITTO THE SOVIET UNION WAS USEFUL. WE HAVE LITTLE EVIDENCE, HOWEVER, THAT THEIR EXPOSURE TO SOVIET VIEWS AND THE SOVIET WORLD CHANGED IN ANY MEANINGFUL WAY THEIR EVAL-
UATION OF THE SOVIET UNION AS A COMPETITOR/
THREAT. THE CODEL SEEMS SATISFIED WITH SOVIETHOSPITALITY AND PRAISED US OFFICIAL SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. MOST CODEL
MEMBERS APPEAR TO BELIEVE THAT PRIMARY VALUE
OF THE VISIT WAS OPPORTUNITY IT PROVIDED TO GAIN A BETTER
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FEELING FOR HOW SOVIET SOCIETY FUNCTIONS AND WHAT IT CAN OFFER. SOVIET ARGUMENTATION ON MOST SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES IMPRESSED THEM LITTLE, AND SOVIET DEBATING TECHNIQUES WERE GENERALY
COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

3. MEMBERS EXPRESSED LITTLE OR NO DISSATISFACTION DURING

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RETURN LEG OFTRIP OVER LEVEL OF RECEPTION ACCORDED THEM. THEY WERE APPARENTLY SUFFICIENTLY IMPRESSED BY OGARKOV'S APPEARANCE THA EARLIER SCHEDULING DISAPPOINTMENTS WERE PUSHED INTO THE BACKGROUND. FLAT REFUSAL TO ALLOW THEM TO VISIT MILITARY INSTALLATIONS CONTINUES TO RANKLE, HOWEVER, AND THE CODEL TRIP REPORT WILL
PROBABLY BEAR DOWN ON THAT.
4. MEMBERS VIEWS ON THE US-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP WERE LITTLE CHANGED BY THE VISIT. POSITIVE EFFECTS OF SOVIET HOSPITALITY, SYMPATHY WITH WWII LOSSES, EC., WERE LARGELY

OFFSET,IN MEMBERS' VIEWS, BY "DEVIOUSNESS" OF SOVIET POSITIONS ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AND BY VARIOUS MANIFESTA-IONS OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT ABILITY TO CONTROL/REPRESS POPULAR OPINION.

IN GENERAL, SALT OPPONENTS REMAINED SALT OPPONENTS, AND SALT SUPPORTERS REMAINED SALT SUPPORTERS. HOWEVER, SEVERAL MEMBERS APPARENTLY NOT YET COMMITTED ONE WAY OR THE OTHER ON THE ISSUE, THOUGH THEY ARE LEANING AGAINST, MAY BE MORE WILLING TO QUESTION THE DOMINANT ANTI-SALT ATTITUDES IN THE COMMITTEE ON RELATEDISSUES SUCH AS CIVIL DEFENSE.

5. STAFF DIRECTOR FORD INFORMED US THAT THE CODEL TRIP REPORT WILL NOT BE AS FRANK IN ITS CRITICISM OF SOVIET POSITIONS AS IT MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN IN ORDER TO
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PRESERVE POSSIBILITY FOR THE COMMITTEE TO VISITTHE SOVIET UNION AGAIN IN THE FUTURE.

6. CODEL WAS UNSTINTING IN ITS PRAISE OF US SUPPORT FOR THE VISIT IN THE SOVIET UNION. SEVERAL MEMBERS SAID EMBASSY AND OTHER POSTS' ASSISTANCE WAS "OUTSTANDING" AND THE BEST IN THEIR EXPERIENCE. VANCE

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